

BARRE GAZETTE

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Piping to share joy

Needed to do something good

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

NEW BRAINTREE – Twelve-year-old Christopher Baum decided in these sobering times to share a little of his joy in bagpipe music by serenading the town from his home this past Sunday, said his mother, Jennifer Baum.

He plans to do it again on Easter Sunday, April 12, at noon, where he will again share a concert of tunes on his bagpipe, which will again be amplified. He lives on an elevated parcel about a mile from the center of town, which is also elevated, and with amplification, the sound carries from one high spot to the other, she said.

Parking will be available at the New Braintree Elementary School, town offices and the U.S. Post Office, she said, where people can listen from the comfort of their cars, and practice social distancing as folks did this past Sunday.

"I need to do something good," he said Monday in a phone interview. "It felt kind of good; it pleased people and maybe it spread some hope."

His mother and members of local band, Tequila Mockingbird, with whom he sometimes plays, helped him set up the amplification and large speakers.

He could hear peoples' applause after each selection and after his last tune, "Amazing Grace," there were plenty of car horns beeping. His aunt was in the center of town and said she could hear it all crystal clear and there were about 35 cars on hand due to some prior notification.

"With everything going on, the COVID-19, school closed and missing connections, and that it's impossible right now to go door-to-door, we figured this set-up would be good," said his mother.

He has been playing the Highland pipes competitively for three years



Turley Publications courtesy photo

New Braintree resident Christopher Baum, 12, recently serenaded the town from his home with amplification to share the sound last Sunday. He will repeat the concert on Easter Sunday, April 12, at noon. Here he is seen playing at a private event.

See BAUM, page 5

Calling all residents!

Kids, parents, adults, those on the front lines, those at home and everyone in between, Turley Publications

wants to share the experiences of all our residents during the COVID-19 emergency. Essays, drawings and photos are all

very welcome. Help us document this historic time with

your experiences by sending submissions to

edowner@turley.com

Selectmen approve pole petition

Grandview Terrace underground conduit to get upgrade

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – Selectmen held a pole petition remotely with a National Grid spokesman participating by phone to answer any questions.

He said the petition involved an upgrade of a new pole and underground conduit for Grandview Terrace. The spokesman said the current underground wires were direct buried cable, the method used when it was installed. The cable was of an age that would start degrading.

DPW superintendent Jason Pimental said he did not want any cable laying over water pipes. The lines would run parallel to the road and sidewalks and would meet minimum distanced requirement of the DPW superintendent for water and sewer lines.

The spokesman said the cable would cross the road at one location. Selectmen asked National Grid to check that there were no pipes where it was crossing. Selectmen made the change on the document before signing it. National Grid will send a written petition with the agreed corrections.

Tax collector

Sharon Ashleigh said the state legislature passed new provisions this week. The first provision would postpone the due date of upcoming taxes. The second provision would delay assessor's exemptions to a later date. Interim Town Administrator said she talked with an assessor and all the assessor's exemptions were in so it did not apply to Barre. The final provision would allow forgiveness of late fees and fines if excise tax, real estate tax and water and sewer bills were paid by June 30. If a resident did not pay by the June 30 deadline, fines and fees would be tallied from the original due date.

The tax collector said she only wanted the third provision. Selectmen approved it unanimously. The tax collector's office would be mailing a letter to tax payers about the waiver of payments until Tuesday, June 30.

Interim town administrator

Interim town administrator Munro said she talked to the Veterans Agent and he had an increase in veteran applications. The town received about 75 percent reimbursement from the federal government, but it is not received until the next year. Munro said the town received a \$53,000 Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

See SELECTMEN, page 5

QRSD superintendent commends district team

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir said, "I can't believe the work accomplished," as she commended the district team during a Zoom meeting last Wednesday.

She said she encouraged working at home, but some functions in the offices cannot be done remotely. Plants and facilities began doing summer work now. Staff are taking professional learning opportunities.

All offices are regularly sanitized. The plants and facilities staff cleaned and sanitized all school spaces. Once cleaned, the areas will be closed off and inaccessible.

Lunch distribution

School closed late Friday, March 13. By Tuesday, March 16 the Hardwick Elementary School and the Quabbin Middle High School were distributing lunches. She said she knew there was a great need. March 17, 22 from the middle high school and 83 from Hardwick participated. A week later participation was 133 at the middle high school and 126 at Hardwick Elementary. The cafeteria staff distributes breakfast and lunch. Volunteer staff delivered to

family homes that could not get to any of the sites.

Muir said she originally was informed that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was providing reimbursement to schools with over 50 percent free or reduced lunch enrollment. Hardwick qualified, but the middle high school did not. She said she later learned the district would be reimbursed for the meal distribution at the middle high school as well.

Starting Friday, April 3 week-end meals will be provided. The district discussed reducing meal distribution to Monday, Wednesday and Friday to cut exposure and to decrease trips parents make.

Muir said educators were working very hard to support students on remote learning and putting together choice boards. The tech team and teachers continued to collaborate and offered new activities every week. Muir said educators were holding office hours and principals continued to have staff meetings, both remotely.

DESE guidelines

Originally, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) wanted teachers to focus on tasks already learned. Now, it wants new information offered as well. The district was also working on providing remote education for special education students.

See QRSD, page 6

Gilbertville friends bake bread for Western Mass. residents in need

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

GILBERTVILLE – In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, best friends Kathleen O'Shea and Jean Lubelczyk are working together to provide bread, dinner rolls, bagels, cinnamon/raisin bread, and ready-to-bake pizza dough to people in need across Western Massachusetts.

The two friends are usually adventurous and were tired of being trapped inside of their place of residence. O'Shea said they began to work together after Lubelczyk texted her and asked to make some bread with her.

After their first try, they decided to keep baking and bought 50 pounds of flour, as well as a bunch of ingredients, and decided that they should start donating their baked goods to others in need during the pandemic. After a post that was sent to a couple of groups on Facebook, they quickly learned that there was a high demand for freshly baked bread products.

O'Shea said that doing this makes them feel good, and like they are doing "God's work." "I think that we're meant to do this," said O'Shea.

O'Shea also said she gets positive messages from people, even those who have not ordered any baked goods, who have told her that she and Lubelczyk are restoring their faith in human-



Courtesy Photo

Best friends Jean Lubelczyk and Kathleen O'Shea after their first day of delivering freshly baked goods.

ity and makes her feel that the "countless hours of baking are 100 percent worth it."

Usually, the two work from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and deliver from 4 to 6 p.m. As of Friday, Apr. 3, they were planning to donate to 45 people and were booked until Easter. O'Shea said that they have been delivering to different areas across Western Massachusetts, including Springfield, Wales, Brimfield, Palmer, Monson, Ware, and more. To safely follow the social distancing procedures, O'Shea said that they usually bring their baked goods to the person's door

and leave it there, while contacting the people they deliver to beforehand.

O'Shea also said that they have not been alone in this and have also been receiving generous donations from others. Without help, they would not be able to accomplish their deliveries without, especially upon realizing they needed more ingredients, including 200 pounds of flour and 40 dozen eggs.

They have received donations such as eggs, flour, yeast, and

See BAKING BREAD, page 6

Town Election, ATM postponed until June

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Town Election and the Annual Town Meeting have been postponed to June 1 and June 5, respectively, as steps taken to help keep COVID-19 from spreading. The Board of Selectmen voted to change the dates during their meeting on March 31.

When Gov. Charlie Baker issued a declaration of emergency for COVID-19 on March 23, it included provisions to allow communities to postpone elections and town meetings.

As part of this, incumbent elected officials will continue to serve until the postponed elections are held.

The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is 10 days prior, May 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.

Voters may also register during regular business hours of the Town Clerk or by mail on online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>.

Voters will be able to cast their ballots in person on June 1 or via absentee or early voting by mail. Applications will be made available on the town website at www.northbrookfield.net. The deadline

See ELECTION, page 5



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News of the Towns

Counting turtles



We would love to give you or your kids a fun little project each week.

Find **TURLEY** (the turtle) our new mascot within the paper. Have fun and count how many times you find Turley.

Email your results along with your name, town and turtle count from what paper to edowner@turley.com.

We will post your name and count in the following weeks paper.

Correct answers will be submitted for a monthly drawing and a chance to win a prize.

Follow Turley on @TurleytheTurtle

Turley the turtle is sponsored by

ANNE GOBI

Massachusetts State Senator

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

MOC CFCE temporarily suspended playgroups and other family events until at least May 4 Governor Baker declared a state of emergency hoping to contain the spread of the coronavirus across the Commonwealth. The Parent Child Plus program will continue to operate with your Early Learning Specialist continuing to visit with enrolled.

North Brookfield Savings Bank postponed its free five-week financial literacy program, which was scheduled from April 2 through April 30.

North Brookfield Savings Bank postponed its free homebuyers' night scheduled for April 30 at Oakholm Brewing Co. in Brookfield.

Massachusetts 4-H programs, activities and club meeting are cancelled until further notice. This includes advisory councils, fair boards, horse advisories and events. Groups are allowed to meet virtually.

Oakham Congregational Church will not hold Sunday worship service through May 3.

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until at least Tuesday, May 4. The eggs will still be available Thursdays at the same time and produce will still be available Wednesdays and Fridays with pickup outside. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

Friends of the Stone

Church in Gilbertville postponed the silent film "Peter Pan" on April 18. Updates will be posted at FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org.

The Gardner Museum, following recommendations from local and state health officials and American Alliance of Museums guidelines in response to ongoing COVID-19 prevention measures, will be closed to the public effective immediately until at least May 4.

Stage on Main, 17 South Main St., Orange has suspended all events until at least May 4 as a precaution against COVID-19.

Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham will be closed to the public until at least May 4. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

All Barre Town Buildings will be closed at least until May 4 to the public, except by appointment and include the Henry Woods Building, Woods Memorial Library, the Council on Aging (senior center), old Town Hall, the public safety building, fire stations and DPW. Please call an office before visiting in many cases staff is able to assist over the phone or by mail. Meals on Wheels program and wellness checks for seniors will continue.

The town of Hubbardston is closing all town buildings to the public until at least May 4. Offices will continue to provide services of the government to residents. The closure will result in the delivery of

services remotely. All public safety operations will continue.

Theatre at the Mount (TAM) at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner has cancelled their production of "Beauty and the Beast, Jr.," scheduled for April 5-10. Tickets purchased online will be refunded back to the credit card used for purchase, within 30 days. Cash purchases will be refunded upon request by phone at 978-630-9388 or by email at box-office@mwcc.mass.edu.

The Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield library trustees decided to close the library effective immediately until at least May 4. Library staff will be on site for short periods Monday through Thursday to collect mail and respond to phone messages.

East Quabbin Land Trust postponed its 19th annual dinner and silent auction to Saturday, Sept. 19.

The American Red Cross cancelled its Heroes Breakfasts events scheduled for April 9.

The Asparagus Festival scheduled for Saturday, May 16 on West Brookfield Common has been cancelled for this year. It will return in May 2021.

EQLT rescheduled its accessible trail workday to June 21.

Barre American Legion Auxiliary cancelled its April 13 meeting.



Round Town

Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Barre Transfer Station lists changes

Effective March 21, the Barre Board of Health announces the following changes at the Transfer Station as part of COVID-19 safety measures.

There will be a drop box for payments of bags. Cost is \$20 per sleeve for large bags and \$31.25 per sleeve for small bags. The transfer center will accept cash or check for exact amount. No change will be given. No credit card sales. The transfer center will be only accepting trash and recycling, all other services will be closed until further notice.

Town election postponed

Selectmen voted Monday, March 30 on the recommendation of Town Clerk Ellen Glidden to postpone the annual town election. The election scheduled for Monday, April 6 will be held at a later date to be determined later.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Post 2 American Legion Auxiliary cancelled its Monday, April 13 meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd. The following meals will be served for the week of April 13.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. — Chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, corn niblets, peaches, biscuit

TUES. — Rosemary balsamic pork loin, herbed stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, lemon pudding, diet = sugar free tapioca pudding, French bread

WED. — Spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, Italian bread

THURS. — Stuffed chicken with gravy, rice pilaf, peas, brownie, diet = half piece, whole wheat bread

FRI. — Sloppy Joe, herbed potatoes, mixed vegetables, strawberries, sandwich roll

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

DCR postpones fishing start at Quabbin, Wachusett reservoirs

Anglers looking to take advantage of the recreational fishing opportunities at Quabbin, Sudbury and Wachusett reservoirs will have to wait at least another month, following a recent announcement from the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation.

To help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, DCR announced April 3 that the opening of shoreline fishing has been postponed until Saturday, May 9. Boat launch areas at these properties will also open May 9.

Shoreline fishing was scheduled to begin Saturday, April 4.

At this time, the Quabbin Visitor's Center is closed to the public, though the property is accessible. Those accessing the property are reminded that vehicles must exit at the posted time. As of Feb. 25, the hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information visit mass.gov.

Sign offers good advice



Turley Publications Photo by Dennis G. Fleming
Big Foot has a message for people passing by. This is located on a barn door on the corner of Grove and Newton Streets just up behind Fidelity Bank.

Turtle count

The following people counted turtles in the April 2 Barre Gazette: Barbara Kempinski counted 9 turtles; Sadie Ouimette counted 9 turtles and Cora Wangerin counted 7 turtles. There were 9 turtles in the edition.

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Barre Gazette

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Happy Easter



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Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

To Advertise in the Barre Gazette contact
Tim Mara at 978-355-2254

News of the Towns

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Egg delivery day changes

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until at least May 4. The day for egg delivery changed to Fridays from 8 to 11 a.m. and produce will still be available Wednesdays and Fridays with pickup outside. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

Meal delivery for seniors

MOC home delivered meals will still be delivered. The in house meals at the Hubbardston Senior Center will be pre-packaged and delivered also. Rick Anderson will deliver meals to the door Monday and Friday. Seniors may call the Senior Center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 for more information. The Friends of the Hubbardston Seniors offered to pick up groceries or medicines for seniors. Seniors in need of this service may call Darlene at 774-242-7779. She will make arrangements for someone to pick up and deliver.

Town buildings closure reminder

The town of Hubbardston is closing all town buildings to the public until at least Monday, May 4. Offices will continue to provide services of the government to residents. The closure will result in the delivery of services remotely. All public safety operations will continue.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: All meetings are closed to the public and will be held remotely.

BARRE

Board of Health – April 13 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – April 13 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Committee – April 14 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – April 14 at 7 p.m.
Town Administrator Search Committee – April 15 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – April 16 at 7 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – April 21 at 6:30 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – April 23 at 11 a.m.
Historical Commission – May 4 at 7 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – May 7 at 3 p.m.

HARDWICK

Council on Aging – April 9 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – April 13, May 11 and June 8 at 5:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – April 13, 27, May 11, May 26 and June 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – April 21 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 21 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – May 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – May 7 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Selectmen – April 13 and April 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – April 28 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Cemetery Commission – April 9 at 7 p.m.
Capital Improvement Planning Committee – April 9 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – April 16 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – April 16 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – April 23 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – April 9 at 6 p.m.
Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – April 14, April 21 and April 28 at 12:45 p.m.

Cornerstone Bank donates to StandUp for Kids

WORCESTER – Cornerstone Bank recently made a \$1,000 donation to the Worcester chapter of StandUp for Kids, an organization whose mission is to end youth homelessness.

The bBank's donation will be used for youth services provided by the organization. These services include things such as bus passes, meals, hygiene items, ID fees, testing and training fees, clothing for interviews, pantry items, etc.

StandUp for Kids is a national non-profit organization that strives to provide life-saving and outreach services to homeless and at-risk youth. They support and guide them by providing counseling, mentoring, and life-skills training. The organization, run almost entirely by volunteers, has local programs in many states across the country.

"StandUp for Kids has always played an important role in our community," said Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer and Chairman of the Bank's Charitable Donations Committee Todd M. Tallman. "We are pleased to support this organization and their mission to end youth homelessness and improve the lives of children."

To learn more about the Worcester chapter of StandUp for Kids or to become a volunteer, people may visit them online at www.standupforkids.org/worcester or by calling 508-963-5576.

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster and Worcester along with a Loan Center in Westborough.

North Brookfield

NBSB announces retail banking promotions

NORTH BROOKFIELD - The North Brookfield Savings Bank (NBSB) announces the promotions of four retail banking employees; Renée Jurczyk, Nicole Syriac, Laurie Lacaire and Hayley Sprague, who have consistently displayed their commitment to the customers, communities and to the overall success of the bank.

"We are so happy to announce these very well-deserved promotions and to have Renée, Nicole, Laurie and Hayley as a part of the North Brookfield Savings Bank team," said North Brookfield Savings Bank president and CEO Donna Boulanger. "They are dedicated and knowledgeable employees who are committed to supporting our customers with their financial goals and giving back to our local communities. I know they will continue to be valuable to the North Brookfield Savings Bank team, our customers and our local neighborhoods."

Renée Jurczyk of Hardwick has been promoted to the role of branch manager of North Brookfield Savings Bank's East Brookfield Branch located on Route 9 at 100 West Main St., East Brookfield. Jurczyk has more than 30 years of banking experience after most recently holding the position of assistant branch manager at North Brookfield Savings, in addition to previous positions with Country Bank and FamilyFirst Bank.

In her new position, Jurczyk will be responsible for overseeing the overall branch operations of the East Brookfield location. She is known for her exceptional service to customers and attention to detail and will help with customer questions about deposit and loan products, open accounts, take mortgage and consumer loan applications and ensure the branch follows the bank's policies and procedures.

Jurczyk is often found volunteering at various North Brookfield Savings Bank sponsored events throughout communities and is always willing to lend a hand for the bank and communities whenever called upon.

"I am honored to receive this promotion and I look forward to continuing my journey with North Brookfield Savings Bank in this community. East Brookfield and the surrounding towns are amazing neighborhoods to be a part of," said NBSB branch manager Renée Jurczyk. "I love working with our customers to help them to reach their financial goals. We have a friendly and strong team at this branch and I am very excited for us to continue to build relationships with the community."

Nicole Syriac of Ware has been promoted to assistant branch manager of the North Brookfield Savings Bank Ware Branch location on Route 9 at 40 Main St., Ware, in addition to her title as marketing coordinator. She previously held the position of supervisor/ marketing assistant.

In her new role as assistant branch manager, Syriac will be



Renée Jurczyk



Nicole Syriac



Laurie Lacaire



Hayley Sprague

responsible for ensuring the efficient operation of the teller line, opening new customer accounts, assisting customers with loan inquiries and processing loan applications, providing excellent customer service to cultivate relationships and supporting the branch manager. As marketing coordinator, Syriac is an essential part of the marketing team, coordinating details for the bank's community involvement, Financial Literacy Program, charitable giving efforts and helping to inform the public about the breadth and depth of financial products and services available through North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Syriac has over 10 years of retail and customer service experience and has consistently provided NBSB customers with a positive and fulfilling banking experience. She places volunteerism as a high priority and will frequently be seen at town happenings located in Ware and the surrounding communities, including attending the Ware Business and Civic Association meetings.

"I am thrilled to have been recognized with this promotion. I look forward to the new experiences and learning opportunities that are ahead for me, and plan to continue to provide our customers with the absolute best banking experience," said NBSB Assistant Branch Manager and Marketing Coordinator Nicole Syriac. "Ware is my home too and I am so happy to not only continue my career in the local area, but also continue to give back through community involvement."

Laurie Lacair of East Brookfield has been promoted to branch support specialist of the bank's East Brookfield Branch located on Route 9 at 100 West Main St., East Brookfield. She began her career at North Brookfield Savings Bank as a teller in 1994 and has continued to grow with the bank, building strong relationships over the years with the bank's customers and communities. Lacaire recently received her NBSB 25 years of service award, but in fact holds over 30 years of banking experience, beginning her banking career

with Southbridge Credit Union in 1989.

In her new role, Lacaire will focus largely on overseeing the daily operations of the East Brookfield Branch behind the teller line, assisting customers with their banking needs, balancing ATMs and the vault to ensure that all transactions are accurate, as well as monitoring and managing office details for the branch.

"It has been wonderful being a part of North Brookfield Savings Bank for the past 25 years and I have enjoyed building solid and trusting relationships with my customers and coworkers," said NBSB branch support specialist Laurie Lacaire. "I am so pleased to be recognized with this promotion and I look forward to continuing to grow in my new position while supporting my coworkers and assisting our customers."

As a local, Lacaire has a deep connection to the community she both works and resides. She regularly volunteers to give her support at neighborhood celebrations or helps at North Brookfield Savings Bank sponsored events.

Hayley Sprague of Three Rivers, has been promoted to the role of supervisor and will be primarily based out of the bank's Palmer Branch location at 1051 Thorndike St., Palmer. She previously held the role of teller and has consistently displayed her strong customer service skills, commitment to learning, and her dedication to providing positive banking experiences for the Bank's customers.

In her new role, Sprague will be responsible for the supervision of the Palmer Branch teller line, helping customers with deposit, service and loan inquiries, assisting in the opening and closing of the branch, opening customer accounts, assisting the branch manager with day to day routines, and processing consumer loans. Sprague holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education from UMASS Amherst.

"I love working in this town and getting to know the customers and community of Palmer. It is a good feeling to be able to get to know and work with customers in the same community that I live in," said NBSB supervisor Hayley Sprague. "My goal is to learn as much as possible while still providing quality customer service and growing my career with North Brookfield Savings Bank. I am so thankful for the recognition of this promotion and excited for the opportunities that lay ahead."

Sprague, like her fellow coworkers, finds a deep importance in giving back to the local community and making a difference which is why she plans to continue to volunteer and make herself available for ongoing community outreach efforts.

North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Palmer and Three Rivers Village of Palmer.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Town hall closed to public

The Oakham Town Hall is closed to the public. All public meetings will be physically closed to the public. The Oakham Police Department and Fire Department will always respond immediately to all 911 emergencies.

No church in April

The Oakham Congregational Church will not hold Sunday worship services through the month of April to the coronavirus pandemic.

Election information

Town clerk Chris Mardirosian announced the last day to register to vote for the annual town election is Tuesday, April 28. Positions on the ballot include: a two-year term to the board of health; one position each to board of selectmen, board of assessors, board of health, library trustees, cemetery commission and school committee, all three-year terms and a five-year term to planning board. Nomination papers may be picked up during regular business hours at the town clerk's office – Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. A minimum of 20 registered voters signatures is required. People may call the town clerk's office at 508-882-5549, extension, 305 for more information.

Fobes Memorial Library

The Fobes Memorial Library will be closed to the public through at least May 4 at which time the situation will be re-assessed. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

Mass Wildlife announces WMAs and waters open

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) shares the following information relative to current agency operations and outdoor activities that the public can still enjoy during the COVID-19 emergency.

Spending time outdoors is a great way to support physical and mental health year-round. Fishing, boating, wildlife watching, hunting and simply exploring your neighborhood provide wonderful opportunities to get fresh air and connect with nature. Outdoor activities and travel to and from those activities, are still permitted. Outdoor users should avoid gathering in groups larger than 10 people. Please provide a safe distance between yourself and others by remaining six feet apart while outdoors.

All Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and waters across the Commonwealth remain open and available for the public to enjoy. To ensure a positive experience for all WMA visitors, dog handlers are reminded to keep pets leashed, as per usual WMA regulations. MassWildlife encourages the public to visit lesser-known spots and explore the outdoors close to home. If crowded, choose a different location or time to visit.

All fishing and hunting seasons, licensing and regulations remain in effect. Trout stocking is still ongoing with most waters in the Commonwealth already stocked at least once. Early reports indicate some outstanding fishing. Stocking reports are updated daily and can be viewed at mass.gov/trout. Anglers and other paddlers in canoes and kayaks are reminded they are required to wear a life jacket through May 15.

The Spring Turkey Hunting Season will open April 27 and run through May 23. Only past participants, who have completed Basic Hunter Education and the Youth Turkey Hunting Seminar will be able to participate in the Youth Turkey Hunt Day, on April 25.

All MassWildlife offices and fish hatcheries are closed to the public until further notice because of the COVID-19 health emergency. Following Governor Baker's State of Emergency Declaration, MassWildlife has canceled all group events and programs through April including all Hunter Education and Angler Education courses. MassWildlife will continue to implement recommendations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding any future closures or cancellations. For information about the Baker-Polito Administration's ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, people may visit the Department of Public Health's website.

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Opinion

Column

Natural Easter egg dyes and floral lore

We are looking forward to coloring eggs later this week! My oldest daughter has been caught up in learning about her Polish ancestors so I thought it would be fun to follow my mother's family tradition of dyeing eggs with onion skins. I remember her taking a large pot and packing it with the outer, papery skins of either red or yellow onions. The more skins in the pot, the more intensely colored the eggs would be. Some people would even save skins a month prior to Easter just to have enough!

With the skins in the pot, she would then add the raw eggs with just enough water to cover them. After boiling for several minutes the eggs would be colored shades of maroon or brown. Where the eggs rested against the skins there would even be an imprint left behind. If you find that you like this mottled look better than the plain background color, wrap the eggs in the skins and secure them with rubber bands prior to boiling for an even more exaggerated appearance. Polish them with a bit of vegetable oil on a clean cloth and they will be shiny enough to use in all sorts of creative table decorations. Incidentally, the eggs aren't flavored "onion" and are completely edible, although you may find them far too pretty to crack and eat!

Using natural dyes is trendy right now, and may even be used out of necessity when coloring eggs this year. Although I have never tried these natural egg dyeing materials, you might have fun experimenting with them on your own. Follow the directions above but replace the onion skins with beets or frozen raspberries for pale red eggs. Carrot tops or the spice tumeric are said to impart a light yellow dye, whereas spinach leaves will leave your eggs pale green in color. Blueberries or red cabbage leaves can be used to make a bluish tint. A teaspoon of vinegar (more for a large batch) added to the pot will set the color.

Easter lilies decorating the altar will be one thing missed this year. While we can witness the beauty televised, it will be hard to conjure up that smell, that glorious smell! Lore has it that lilies sprung from the ground, marking where Christ's drops of sweat had fallen in his final moments of agony. It has also been said that lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, and for that reason are sometimes called "white-robed apostles of hope." They are mentioned numerous times in the Bible, perhaps most memorably in the Sermon on the Mount, where Christ said to his followers: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet... Solomon and all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Emblems of new life, hope and beauty, fragrant Easter lilies decorate churches en masse during the Easter season.

You can keep an Easter lily alive long past the holiday. After the individual flowers have withered, remove them from the plant. The process of "dead-heading" will direct energy away from seed production and back to the bulb below. Don't cut away the foliage, however, leave it intact as long as it is green. Once the weather has warmed, pick a sunny, well-drained spot in the garden and sink the bulb three inches below the soil surface. Don't expect it to flower again this season, or even next March or April. Easter lily growers force the plant into bloom for the holiday; without manipulation it will flower naturally during the summer months.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist



In Past Pages

5 years ago (April 9, 2015)

Barre selectmen held a moment of silence for Suzanne Fullam, a lifelong resident of Barre who passed away recently. Selectman Kathy Inman called her a creative person and a hard worker.

Endicott baseball junior shortstop and Rutland resident Cody Hall came through with some big hits for the squad over the past week. He had an opposite field RBI single in a 5-4 loss to Eastern Connecticut on Tuesday, March 31. Hall drove in a run on a sacrifice fly and scored a run in a 4-0 win over Nichols in the nightcap of a doubleheader on Saturday, April 4. Hall also had a wall ball double and a run scored in a 5-1 win over Suffolk on Monday, April 6.

Music, laughter and enthusiasm filled the Quabbin gym as the girls varsity softball team didn't let the weather conditions get them down as they continue to work hard to be ready for opening day, whenever that may be. "I'm very pleased with the way things have been going," Quabbin first-year varsity coach Gwen Reimer said. "I really like what I've seen. We have some experienced underclassmen as well as experienced upperclassman." For the first time in many years, Quabbin did not have enough players to field a junior varsity team which means not only will Reimer be getting her bearings as the new coach, she'll also be challenged with the task of carrying a larger than average team ranging in age from freshmen to seniors.

10 years ago (April 15, 2010)

Barre resident Ryan Walsh allowed just one unearned run in seven innings pitched to beat the Plymouth Mizuno Cardinals, 3-1, on Sunday. Walsh's pitch count was at 86 when the final pitch was thrown. Ryan plays for the Worcester Strike Zone central team out of Worcester. The team is a 13-year-old AAU team that consists of players from several towns in Worcester County. Walsh's catcher for the game was Brendan Roach of Hardwick. Ryan and Brendan have been playing baseball together for four years in the Quabbin Area Little League and are now both members of the Quabbin Middle School baseball team. The Strike Zone Central team manager, Mike Sacco of Worcester praised Ryan and his players for being consistent throughout the game in throwing strikes and making good plays in the field. The team finished the day's double-header with two victories, 3-1, 5-3.

The Oakham Center School and New Braintree Grade School merger was officially approved by the Quabbin Regional School District (QRSB) Committee. As of

LOOK BACK
Fishing Derby -
2006



Turley Publications File Photo
Anna Lakaitis displays the fruit of her labors, a 19" rainbow trout she snagged at the annual children's fishing derby sponsored by the South Barre Rod and Gun Club.

next school year, Oakham will host grades second to sixth and New Braintree will take pre-k to first grade. At the end of the 2012-2013 school year, this change will be re-evaluated.

About 40 people attended an event recognizing the contributors and the publishing of "Small Miracles and Poems of Joy" collected by Maude M. Stone last Saturday evening, April 10 at the Oakham Congregational Church. Stone held the event to thank her family, the community and all the contributors to her small volume. Maude Stone said, "This idea for this small volume began as a private message of hope and faith that I wanted to leave to my children as a reminder that although life is often filled with obstacles, miracles do happen." She began the reading with a poem she wrote "Earth Angels." Helen Bechan read "Struck by Lightning," an account that involved her husband and his mother, Margaret Bechan when they lived in the former Methodist Church building that stood on Coldbrook Road.

25 years ago (April 13, 1995)

Elly Rival of Valley Road was a guest of honor on April 8 at the German Club in Worcester in recognition of her 35-year membership and was presented with a pin. She married the late Raymond Rival when he was serving with the United States Army in Germany during World War II and came to the United States Army in 1954 from her homeland. She lived in Marktredwitz, Germany. Elly has

a daughter and three sons. She also has two sisters and a brother living in Germany.

Julio Mansueti of South Street, Bare, was given a surprise birthday party by his daughters last Saturday at Coldbrook Country Club in honor of his 80th birthday. A delicious buffet was enjoyed along with dancing to Momo's Band.

Robert Laford of West Road, a lieutenant in the Orange Fire Department, has recently received national certification to the level of Fire Officer I from the National Professional Qualifications Board. Laford, who is married to the former Diona Caouette, is a career firefighter with the Orange department and is currently in charge of the department's training. He is also the training officer for the Petersham's Fire Department and is an instructor with the State's Firefighting Academy. He has been certified as an instructor since 1988.

38 years ago (April 14, 1982)

Lawrence Bolduc, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, has enlisted in the United States Army. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Bolduc, Sr. of Winter Street, Barre. "Lance" has selected missile crewmember as his area of study. While at Quabbin he has been active in the following school and civic activities: yearbook advertising staff, prom committee and varsity club, served as soccer and track team co-captain and was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic youth group.

John P. Cirelli, Jr., a senior at Quabbin Regional High School has enlisted in the U.S. Navy under the Delayed Entry Program. He will leave for Great Lakes Illinois Recruit Training Center on July 21, 1982. John has selected the Hospital Corps as his area of study. While at Quabbin he was active in the following school activities; NJROTC I, II, LL, and Aide, drama club, Panther Press, senior bazaar committee and gymnastics club. John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Cirelli, Sr. of Town Farm Road, Barre.

Early in March, Gay Louise Rogers auditioned for an won the opportunity to participate in the LaVoix Poetique at the Hartt College's annual competition. On March 30, Miss Roger, a student of Mary Mack, performed three songs from the cycle "Over the Rim of the Moon" by Michael Head - "Ship of Arcady," "Beloved" and "A Blackbird Singing." She has been notified that she won first prize in the LaVoix Poetique and will be awarded \$100.00 from the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, Conn. where she is a member of the senior class.

Guest Column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

I have had a terrible day. Missy has been under foot all the time. I have endured two weeks of this stay home thing, but I am not sure I am going to survive.

After breakfast this morning, I decided to take an early nap as I didn't sleep well last night. So I went on Missy's bed and settled down in the sunshine. Next thing I knew, Missy had picked me up and put me on the floor as she was changing the sheets to wash.

Okay, so I wandered into the spare bedroom and jumped up on that bed and settled down I thought. Nope, next thing I knew Missy was putting me down on the floor again and scolding me for sleeping on her new rug. "Gertrude, you have left black hairs on the new rug. What am I going to do with you?" I looked up at her and in cat language told her I didn't know about the rug.

I better get out of Missy's sight. So I ran into the front room and jumped up on the back of the couch to check my birdies. They didn't even cooperate. Not a bird in sight.

After waiting a few minutes, I decided to settle down again for a nap on the couch next to one of the new throw pillows. This was great and comfortable. Now, what? Missy is moving me again to get the pillow. It seems she needed it to copy the pattern for the new pillow she was making.

Where to go next? Under the rocking chair on the floor should be safe I thought, but no Missy had to move the chair to get out to the front hall. I tell you folks I have had it today. However, I think it should be safe to go back on Missy's bed now that she has made it up. I hope your day was better than mine. Stay healthy.

Love,
Gertrude



REMEMBER

You can only sit in one chair at a time,
Find the one, call it "Mine."

You've nailed a break .. that's my hunch,
No such thing as a "Free Lunch."

To catch the rainbow before it fades,
That's lucking out, "In Spades."

Be careful who goes or maybe stays,
Remember the door, it "Swings both Ways."

Lift your hem, let him pay the bill,
No such thing as, "Over the Hill."

– Patricia Masten

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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THE BARRE GAZETTE – Serving the towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham & Rutland since 1834



Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

A day without a smile is like a day without sunshine. It is hard to smile at this trying time, but getting out to the gardens and working helps to keep away some of the stress.

I hope all my readers are staying home like the government is recommending. We are in isolation and trying to keep busy here at Serenity Hill.

The gardens are shaping up quite good and we got most of the leaves piled in many composts around the property. I did transfer and separate a few primroses, which you have to do each year. I put some in the rock garden and most of them are under an apple tree.

In this time of little grocery

shopping, I have been trying to make meals with things I have on hand. Here is one recipe I plan to make today as I have a bunch of asparagus on hand.

SPEARS OF ASPARAGUS EN CASSEROLE

a bunch of asparagus, cooked to tender

I can of tiny green peas

I can cream of mushroom soup

1 cup cheddar cheese, grated

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease the casserole. Combine all the ingredients, reserving part of the cheese. Top with reserved cheese and bake for 30 minutes or until bubbly.

When I cook, I try to make enough for a couple of meals like

when I made a beef stew in the crock pot. I also make American chop suey for a couple of days. That way I can work in the gardens and just heat things up. We do like leftovers so that is good.

This and That

I was so sad to hear of the passing of a long time friend, Gail Whittle, who ran the Country Mischief in Templeton for so many years. She was a victim of the virus. She was such a good person and helped her community in so many ways. She will be missed. This is why we seniors have to be especially careful. May we all do our part.

Have a good week and stay healthy.

Child psychiatrist offers parents advice on telling children about COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – Keep it simple. Stick to the facts. That’s the word when it comes to calming your child’s fears about what they are hearing about the coronavirus pandemic.

“Concern over coronavirus COVID-19 can make children and families anxious. Acknowledging some level of concern, without panicking, is appropriate and can result in taking actions that reduce the risk of illness,” said Dr. Bruce Waslick, chief, child psychiatry at Baystate Health. “Helping children cope with anxiety and stress requires being attentive to the child’s emotional needs as much as providing accurate prevention information and facts without causing undue alarm,” he added.

Dr. Waslick noted that it is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. “If parents seem overly worried, children’s anxiety may rise to the point of being unhealthy. Parents should reassure

children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy,” said Dr. Waslick. However, children also need factual, age-appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk and concrete instruction about how to avoid infection and the spread of disease. “Teaching children positive coping measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety,” said Dr. Waslick.

Remain calm and reassuring: children will react to and follow verbal and nonverbal reactions. What parents say and do about COVID-19, current prevention efforts and related events can either increase or decrease a child’s anxiety. Let children talk about their feelings and help reframe their concerns into the appropriate perspective.

Children may need extra attention

from their parents and may want to talk about their concerns, fears, and questions. It is important that they know they have someone, who will listen to them and make time for them. Tell them you love them and give them plenty of affection.

Monitor television viewing and social media: Limit television viewing or access to sensational information on the Internet and through social media. Try to avoid watching or listening to information that might be upsetting when children are present.

Engage your child in games or other interesting activities. Maintain a normal routine to the extent possible. Be honest and accurate: In the absence of factual information, children often imagine situations far worse than reality. Don’t ignore their concerns, but rather explain that at the present moment very few people in this country are sick with COVID-19.

For more information, people may visit baystatehealth.org/covid19.

BAUM, continued from page 1

now, and competes as a solo piper at Highland Games across the Eastern United States, she said. He is ranked second in pipers under 18 in the Eastern U.S.

He is a member of New Hampshire Pipes and Drums, has performed with International Bagpipe Rock Band, Red Hot Chili Pipers, and plays regularly with the local band Tequila Mockingbird. He

is often hired to play local events, weddings and funerals.

Since Christopher saw a parade with pipers when he was about 4, he wanted to play and kept asking every year when he would be able to start learning, his mother said. Just before he turned 9, he received his pipes, and has studied with a private teacher in Concord, N. H. and plays with the New Hampshire Pipes and Drums.

Perhaps he is just following his Scottish heritage, which can be

traced back to the 1600s on his mother’s side.

“Playing the pipes is difficult,” he said. Players must master the chanter, which resembles a recorder, as they blow into the pipes and squeeze the bag, all at the same time, while they march in time, he said.

He said he’s looking forward to his second amplified concert on Sunday, and hopes people enjoy it.

For more information about him see his website at www.cbbagpiper.com.

SELECTMEN, continued from page 1

(MEMA) for the DPW generator. Selectman chair Matthew Urban said the town would receive extra free case, which was not anticipated and amounted to almost double the amount expected. He said if needed it could be used for shortfalls.

Town election date

Town Clerk Ellen Gladden asked selectmen to hold a little longer before setting a new date for the town election that the board postponed from Monday, April 6. She said they still had more time to set

the election. The deadline was June 30. She discussed possibly reducing polling hours and consolidating voting at one polling location rather than the two: one at the Barre Senior Center and the other at Post 2 American Legion hall. Selectman Greg O’Sullivan said reducing hours and opening only one precinct might lead to higher concentrations of voters. He said the town could provide masks for the election workers and people entering to vote.

Coldbrook Campground

Munro said Coldbrook Campground remained closed until at least May 4 as it was on the list of

non-essential business.

Emergency Management Team

Interim town administrator Munro said the emergency management team received concerns from a couple of residents about children grouping together at playgrounds in town. Munro said she did not recommend closing all playgrounds. She recommended closing the basketball courts and remove every other swing to increase social distancing. Selectmen agreed to her recommendations as well as put up signs encouraging social distancing and not having more than ten people.

ELECTION, continued from page 1

to apply for an Early Voting ballot is by noon on the last business day before the election, which will be Thursday, May 28. Completed ballots by mail must be received before the hour fixed for the closing of the polls on June 1.

The following candidates are up for re-election: Jason Petraitis, three-year term as selectman; Maria Beiter-Tucker, three-year term as School Committee member; Shiela A. LeBlanc, three-year term as water commissioner; Priscilla A. Johnson, three-year term as assessor; Robert Locatelli, three year term on Board of Health; Kirk Burnham, three-year term as Cemetery Commissioner; Betty S. Wuelfing, three-year term as Library Trustee; Scott W. Norrie, three-year term as Library Trustee; John Turner, five-year term on Planning Board; Daniel Roman, three-year term on Playground Committee; Mary J. Waytina, a five-year term on the Housing Authority and Donald J. Gillette, a three-year term on the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Committee.

There is also a second, three-year term on the School Committee open as Kristen M. Depasse is not running for re-election to the board. There is also a two-year term on the Playground Committee that is open as it is currently vacant.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Clerk via email at townclerk@northbrookfield.net or call 508-867-0203.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Petersham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 13. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Dick Clark, Barbara Laborde, Raul Laborde and Bill Mucha correctly identified last week’s photo. Last week’s photo was of the Roger Lonergan ball field on Deacon Allen Drive by the Oakham Center School.

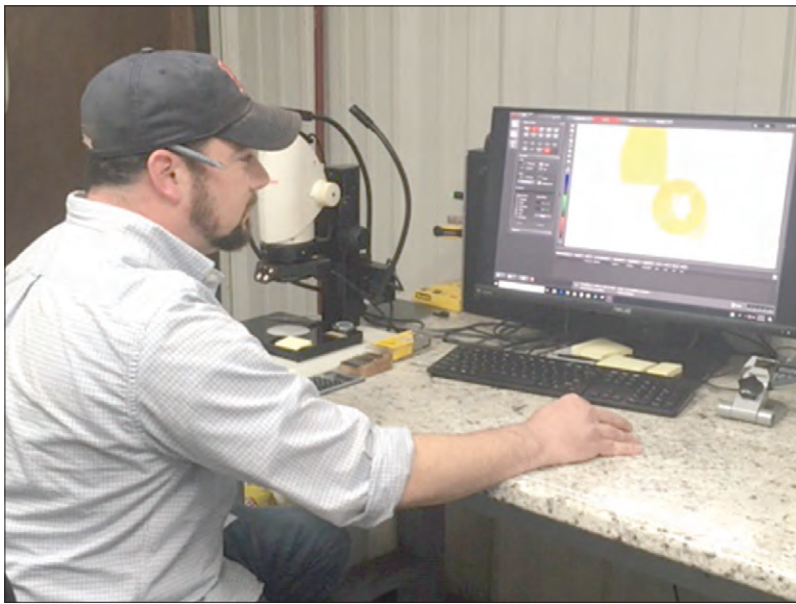
Local company produces cables used in ventilators

WARE – As the world navigates through the Covid-19 pandemic, Quabbin Wire & Cable Co., Inc., located in Ware, remains open as an essential business. The local manufacturer, which employs approximately 100 employees, manufactures products that are currently in high demand in the medical field and military operations.

With a diverse product line that focuses on electronic communication cables, the company produces and stocks a wide variety of cables for many applications. Because many of its products are sold through distributors, Quabbin may not know what a specific cable is used for. Mike LaPlaca, Vice President of Sales, states “We are starting to uncover many of the applications that our cables are being utilized for. Some of the cables in high demand are used in hospital beds, ventilators and portable hospitals that are being erected. The cables for the portable hospitals are most likely being used for data transmissions within a hospital’s network.” Through various sales channels, LaPlaca has been informed that the demand for these cables is ramping up, “We have increased our manufacturing runs of these products to accommodate the demand beyond our current available stock. In the past week alone, a couple of our customers have reached out requesting additional footage of cable specifically for ventilators.”

Although some production runs are increasing, Melissa Delargy, Chief Operations Officer, says “We’re not currently increasing our capacity but rather maintaining our manufacturing and inventory levels to meet demands. We have hired some additional employees and others have been flexible in helping out to insure coverage of critical positions.”

The company, a veteran-owned small business, partners with U.S. suppliers for materials required



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

Quabbin Wire and Cable Co., Inc. is located in Ware and remains open as an essential business. The company focuses on electronic communication cables.

to make their cables. A truly American-made product through and through, Delargy explains “We were proactive in forecasting some of the needs, and we have increased raw material inventories which has helped insure we have the materials we need during this critical production time.” Foreseeing needs helps during these uncertain times as this pandemic can disrupt supply chains at any time.

The health and safety of Quabbin’s employees are a top priority, so the company acted quickly on CDC and OSHA guidance to prepare the workplace and educate employees about necessary control measures. Jack Sullivan, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor (a 32-year Quabbin employee), expressed “It’s an honor to be part of the essential team at Quabbin Wire. During this pandemic, we all need to do our part to help in any way possible – from social distancing, hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting.” Sullivan also acknowledged that he knows many people in different industries

and trades that are now laid off with no known recall date. “I feel lucky to have a steady income and am proud to be part of a company that can help keep the economy going. With a great team effort, we will make it through this.”

As the company marks its 45th year in business, Paul Engel, owner and president, says “We have endured difficult challenges in the past, but this is the first time we’ve had to navigate a health crisis that is impacting the world. We, as a company, can be proud of the product we make knowing it is making a difference in getting the medical field what it needs now.” He also attributes the well-being of the company moving forward to its employees, “I have faith in the Quabbin Wire team and all that we can do together; the dedication and teamwork are greatly appreciated. As always, our commitment is to provide safe working conditions for our employees and excellent products and services to our customers at a time when they are needed most.”

Dear Loyal Customers,

We would like to take this time to thank you all for your continued support of our store. We are proud of the hard work and dedication our staff has shown these past few weeks to continue providing for our community. With Easter upon us, the staff here at 90 Meat Outlet would like to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday. While we may not be able to gather with our family and friends this year, just remember we are all in this together. A special thank you goes out to all the essential workers here and everywhere who have and will continue to sacrifice themselves for others. Our hope is that we continue to unite as a community and come out stronger than ever.

Your Family at 90 Meat Outlet

BUY DIRECT

USDA KAYEM BUDDAHBAY
WHOLE BONELESS
SMOKED PIT HAM 10-12 LBS. **\$2⁴⁹** lb

USDA INSP. HATFIELD
WHOLE SKINLESS,
SHANKLESS HAM 15-18 LBS. **\$2²⁷** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN
1/2 SMOKED HAMS
BUTT OR SHANK..... **88¢** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN
1/2 BONELESS HAM.... **\$1⁶⁹** lb

USDA INSP. SMOKED
LOCAL HAMEL BROS
HOLIDAY KIELBASA..... **\$4⁹⁹** ea

USDA INSP.
FRESH BONELESS
BEEF TENDERLOIN
CUT FREE **\$6⁸⁸** lb

USDA INSP.
FRESH BONELESS
BEEF RIBEYE
CUT FREE **\$7⁴⁴** lb WHOLE OR HALF

USDA INSP.
FRESH AMERICAN
LEG OF LAMB
\$3⁹⁹ lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN
BONELESS & SKINLESS
CHICKEN BREAST TRAY PAK .. **99¢** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH
CHICKEN
DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG **59¢** lb

USDA FRESH
HATFIELD
BACON 3 LB PAK **\$5⁹⁹** ea

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SPORTS

PVIAC hopes to keep sectional tournament going

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the state will move toward implementing a statewide tournament in the fall of 2021, at least one section plans to attempt to have its own tournament. The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, the governing body of the sports played by schools in Western Massachusetts, has confirmed it will seek to have its own tournament, likely to be built into the regular season.

David Stratton, athletic director of Agawam High School, and a member of the PVIAC Board of Directors, said his board is going to pursue options to hold a similar sectional tournament for most sports.

Lou Conte, a former athletic director at Agawam, and the PVIAC's Executive Secretary, said the PVIAC is working on gathering as much information as possible to propose what a tournament would look like.

"We have experience having tournaments," said Conte. "We do one for indoor track, outdoor track, and cross country. But we have not done them with the team sports. We would have to see how the logistics would work out."

Among the more popular tournaments are fall tournaments for soccer and the winter tournament for basketball to name Western Mass. champions in those respective sports. Stratton believes the region still deserves to have a tournament.

"The tournament has always been important to the schools, and to the kids," said Stratton. "Our board would like to see us have a sectional tournament still."

Many schools in Western and Central Massachusetts opposed the statewide tournament proposal in a vote taken on Feb. 28 at Assabet Valley Technical High School. The vote saw more than 330 schools participate, with the majority deciding to go with a statewide tournament. More than 100 votes went against the proposal, meaning some Eastern Massachusetts schools voted against it, some feeling the proposal needed more time to develop.

Conte said there are a lot of logistics that will need to be worked out if Western Mass. tournaments are to be continued under the PVIAC umbrella. Among the many logistics to be considered will be how to fund the tournaments. The MIAA helps fund the current tournaments, which include staffing the neutral sites and paying for some venues. One thing working for the PVIAC would be more flexibility in where games could



The sectional tournaments have yielded special memories for many of the area schools that participate. The PVIAC hopes to keep the tournament alive after the state made the decision to hold a statewide tournament only. That tournament will begin in fall 2021. Quabbin has participated in Western Mass. tournaments in some sports

be held. Western Massachusetts would also have to consider dropping regular season games in order to find time to hold the tournament. Because the statewide tournaments will be a 32-team bracket, it will be five to six rounds. The sixth round will be a preliminary phases to get .500-qualifying teams an opportunity

to make the round of 32. Current sectional tournaments are typically played over the course of two weeks, with the semifinals and finals of a state tournament between the sectional champions occurring in a third week. All three of those weeks would likely be needed to play new state tournament format, so Stratton said it

was likely a week or more would have to be removed from the end of the regular season in order to fit in a sectional tournament. This would lower the number of regular season games played by Western Mass. schools, and could hurt those schools' chances for high-

See TOURNAMENTS, page 8

MIAA board still hopes to have sectional tournaments

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association still seems hopeful of having a spring season as well as a spring tournament after "going back on its decision."

In a vote held in mid-March, the Board of Directors voted that it would cancel tournament play if the start date for spring sports was delayed past April 27.

When Gov. Charlie Baker announced on March 25 that the closure of schools, non-essential businesses, and a general stay-at-home advisory would extend until May 4, the MIAA and its board knew it would obviously be unable to start practices prior to that May 4.

The board then met again on March 30, agreeing that that the season can begin no earlier than May 4.

However, in a surprise turn, the board did not follow through on its decision to cancel tournaments. Instead, the season was extended from June 20 to June 27 (or June 28 pending weather and facility needs). That vote was a unanimous 19-0 decision.

This means if Massachusetts is able to re-open schools and allow high school sports to commence, there will still be a tournament.

However, one caveat that is still in play is an ironic one.

If there is a tournament, the tournament will only be the four individual sectional tournaments held. There will be no state tournament. A little more than a month ago, the state's schools voted to go to a statewide tournament rather than have sectional tournaments, with the four sectional champions facing off in a state tournament.

A few other votes took place at the March 30 meeting, which was held by teleconference, much like the last few meetings of the MIAA BOD. The board is still requiring seven days from the first day of practice before games can be played. This means that no actual contests can take place before May 11.

Under the rules set up at the March 24 board meeting, schools will play between eight and 12 actual contests. This will be the case for baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse, tennis, and boys volleyball. To qualify for tournament, a team must have at least eight contests. There are typically between 16 and 20 contests for most sports, though tennis sometimes ranges between 14 and 20 contests for an individual school.

See SPRING SPORTS, page 8

Early golf season derailed by coronavirus closures

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Sports have become non-existent since the coronavirus took over daily life in Massachusetts and the entire country.

But for a while, there was one sport many people could turn to: golf.

Golf could have been a beautiful activity given that it lends itself to social distancing and does not involve too many people in the same place at the same time.

But social distancing was not enough, and Gov. Charlie Baker closed all non-essential businesses and issued the stay-at-home advisory, which is now extended until May 4.

Unfortunately for some golf courses, they had to close up shop after it appeared an early spring was going to allow for people to get some rounds in.

Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown opened up on March 9. David Wright said the course opened and remained open for a couple of weeks. But the non-essential business closure made by Baker cut the early

season short and Wright said the course has been closed on March 20.

"A small maintenance crew will be starting part time on Monday, April 6 and will be doing just the minimum to keep the course in shape," said Wright. "We also took out all the tees and markers and placed a sign up saying the course is closed."

Unlike the issues that have had Springfield Mayor Dominic Sarno publicly chiding people for using golf courses in Springfield, places like Cold Spring and Chicopee Country Club have not had issues with intruders using the course on their own.

Since the non-essential business closure, the Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations negotiated with the governor to at least allow courses to begin maintaining the courses. The maintenance factor is crucial, otherwise courses run the risk that the courses will not be ready at the moment the order is lifted.

Mike O'Neill, representing Chicopee Country Club, said he

See GOLF, page 8

Registrations piling in for start of Modified season

SEEKONK – The COVID-19 pandemic may have delayed the start of the Tri Track Open Modified Series season, but the list of entered drivers and car owners for 2020 continues to grow just over a month before the drop of the first scheduled green flag.

For those who haven't seen, the start of the season has been delayed until May 9 at Monadnock Speedway -- but that date is fluid, depending on how the pandemic develops. As of this writing, the entire schedule remains in place, with Monadnock on May 9 and

Claremont Speedway on May 24th opening the season.

"We're still on target for May 9 as of now," Wayne Darling, one of two Managing Partner's for the Tri Track Open Modified Series, said. "Our registrations are growing daily -- with some stout talent lined up to compete for a large purse. We also want to remind everyone about the Pepsi Challenge, which will pay heat race winners in 2020."

A former series champion and countless winners are on the current entry list -- one filled

with talent from top to bottom. Defending series champion Ronnie Williams is looking to repeat in 2020, with car owner Gary Casella, as the combination comes back fired up and ready for more. They were able to visit Victory Lane at Seekonk Speedway last year as part of the \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday before earning their crown.

Ron Silk and Chase Dowling, two drivers who earned victories last year, are both back with the same team. Silk teams with Bob Horn, as Dowling teams with

Jimmy Paige. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is also well represented.

Matt Swanson, who drives for the historic Boehler Racing on the tour, will drive for Larry Westgate in a car prepared by Boehler Racing, carrying the famed 'Ole Blue' colors. Woody Pitkat, who is back teaming with Stan Mertz, returns to wheel the No. 6, while former NASCAR Modified Tour Rookie of the year Calvin Carroll returns to Tri Track for another round.

On the veteran front, Kirk

Alexander, Les Hinckley and Tommy Barrett are coming back.

Weekly SK Modified racers from Stafford Speedway set to compete with Tri Track in 2020 include Matt Galko and Andrew Molleur, one of many upcoming Modified stars. Mike Willis, who earned his first Tri Track win last year at his home track of Claremont, is coming back, this time with car owner Cam McDermott. Rising stars Ryan Doucette, Dylan Izzo, Brian Robie and Derek Robbie are also on the list.

Additional entries include Jim Gavek, Andrew Charron, Carl Medeiros Jr., Matt Kimball and Austin Kochenash. Look for car owner Rick Kluth to unload a car with a new number, No. 44, with a driver TBA.

For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, follow the series on the web at tritrackmodifieds.com and on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. Any additional updates regarding the schedule will be released when available.



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Sports

Late Bryant headlines next Hall class

SPRINGFIELD – Today on ESPN, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced the nine honorees in the Class of 2020 presented by Fifty-Five South Ventures. The Class of 2020 will be enshrined in Springfield, Massachusetts, the Birthplace of Basketball, on Saturday, Aug. 29.

As previously announced, in light of the unique circumstance surrounding the Class of 2020, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Election Process Committee suspended the Direct Election Categories for one year with the exception of the International Committee. This year’s distinguished class includes honorees from the North American committee, Women’s Committee and International Committee. To be elected, North American and Women’s Committee finalists must receive 18 of 24 votes from the Honors Committee for election into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Class of 2020 includes: 18-time NBA All-Star and five-time NBA champion Kobe Bryant, 15-time NBA All-Star

and three-time NBA Finals MVP Tim Duncan, 15-time NBA All-Star and nine-time NBA All-Defensive First Team selection Kevin Garnett, four-time National Coach of the Year Eddie Sutton, two-time NBA Champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich, 10-time WNBA All-Star and four-time Olympic gold medalist Tamika Catchings, three-time NCAA National Championship Coach of Baylor Kim Mulkey, five-time Division II National Coach of the Year Barbara Stevens and longtime FIBA executive Patrick Baumann.

“The Class of 2020 is undoubtedly one of the most historic of all time and the talent and social influence of these nine honorees is beyond measure,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “In 2020, the basketball community has suffered the unimaginable loss of iconic figures Commissioner David Stern and Kobe Bryant, as well as the game itself due to COVID-19. We have also banded together like never before in appreciation of the game and those who have made it the uniting force it is today. Today

we thank the Class of 2020 for all they have done for the game of basketball and we look forward to celebrating them at Enshrinement in August.”

The Class of 2020 Enshrinement festivities will begin at Mohegan Sun on Friday, Aug. 28 with the newly formatted Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2020 and over 50 returning Hall of Famers will then journey to Springfield, Mass. for the annual celebratory events taking place at the newly renovated Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield Symphony Hall on the Aug. 29. The second day of events in Springfield will include a special community-focused Celebration Day on the Aug. 30.

Ticket packages to the 2020 Enshrinement Ceremony and all Enshrinement events are on sale now and available online at www.hoophall.com or by calling the Basketball Hall of Fame at (413) 231-5513. Premium Sponsors of Enshrinement 2020 include Fifty-Five South Ventures, Nike, Baron Championship Rings, Mohegan Sun and Panini.

Sign-ups ongoing for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league

this season is \$192. For returning players, sign-ups are extended through May 1. New players can also sign up through this date with the draft currently set for May 2. The league hopes to begin play in early June.

The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one play-off game. A modified schedule is

being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass.

For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

TOURNAMENTS, continued from page 7

need to be worked out if Western Mass. tournaments are to be continued under the PVIAC umbrella. Among the many logistics to be considered will be how to fund the tournaments. The MIAA helps fund the current tournaments, which include staffing the neutral sites and paying for some venues. One thing working for the PVIAC would be more flexibility in where games could be held.

Western Massachusetts would also have to consider dropping regular season games in order to

find time to hold the tournament. Because the statewide tournaments will be a 32-team bracket, it will be five to six rounds. The sixth round will be a preliminary phases to get .500-qualifying teams an opportunity to make the round of 32.

Current sectional tournaments are typically played over the course of two weeks, with the semifinals and finals of a state tournament between the sectional champions occurring in a third week. All three of those weeks would likely be needed to play new state tournament format, so Stratton said it was likely a week or more would have to be removed from the end

of the regular season in order to fit in a sectional tournament. This would lower the number of regular season games played by Western Mass. schools, and could hurt those schools’ chances for higher seeds in a state tournament. Fewer games played could result in fewer opportunities for wins, which plays into the MaxPreps formula, which will be used to determine state tournament seeds.

While there is a hold on meetings regarding a sectional tournament during the coronavirus pandemic, the subject will continue to be discussed in the coming months.

CLUES ACROSS

- Canadian law enforcers
- Actor Idris
- Cut or bruise
- Vegetables
- Aircraft delivery
- To make obsolete
- Things similar to those already noted
- Columbus is a famous one
- Age group
- Denotes nature of sound
- Klutzy
- Uninteresting
- Computer manufacturer
- 2,000 lbs.
- Genus of seabirds
- Emerges
- Baseball stat
- Witnesses

CLUES DOWN

- Churned
- Seal bottles
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Meat from a pig (French)
- Within
- Walk in a slow pace
- Cries
- About Andes
- Fishermen use it
- Expresses delight
- Shouts
- Feudal agricultural laborer
- Sailboat
- Small Eurasian willows
- S. American native people
- Extreme disgust
- Nonsense (slang)

- Produce male reproductive cells
- Computes
- Pop singer
- Weds secretly
- Having two poles
- Yankee hero Bucky
- Building
- Per __, each
- Six (Spanish)
- Makes amends
- Scoundrels
- Baseball's best pitchers
- Some are scrambled
- Emit coherent radiation
- Singer Redding
- Break
- Institute legal proceedings against

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Education

QRSD offers free meals to go at selected schools

REGION – The Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) has plans in place to ensure students, who rely on their schools for breakfast and lunch continue to receive that service.

Walk-up distribution of daily prepared meals at selected school sites for families to pick up will be available Monday

through Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. until school reopens. These meals will be available for free for anyone 18 and under regardless of what school they attend. Each child will receive a breakfast and lunch.

Families can access meals from either location listed: Hardwick Elementary School (no pin required) or Quabbin

Middle & High School (will need 4 digit pin# or student name).

Cold “grab and go” options will be available and meals must be taken and consumed off site. If people have difficulty with transportation for pickup or other concerns, they may call 978-355-4668.

HCC donates personal protection equipment

HOLYOKE – In response to requests from area hospitals experiencing shortages of supplies, Holyoke Community College (HCC) is preparing to donate surgical masks, isolation gowns, exam gloves and other personal protection equipment from its health science programs to help frontline medical professionals as they battle coronavirus.

HCC’s Emergency Response Team has been coordinating with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) on the collection of supplies from the college’s health sciences division and its division of business

and workforce development.

Recently, the Western Mass Economic Development Council sent out a list of personal protection equipment (PPE) that Baystate Medical Center and other area hospitals are “in desperate need of.”

“I know we have all been looking for meaningful ways to help out during these stressful times of COVID-19,” said the message, which was sent out on behalf of WestMass president and CEO Rick Sullivan. “Our frontline medical professionals and first responders need our help.”

Fitchburg State hosts online information session

FITCHBURG – Learn about the educational opportunities available at Fitchburg State University when the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education (GCE) hosts an online information session at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25.

Visitors can tune in virtually to learn about the undergraduate evening and graduate programs Fitchburg State offers. The free session will cover the admissions process, digital learning opportunities and other unique details that make Fitchburg State such a great place to continue your edu-

cation.

GCE at Fitchburg State offers more than 45 graduate and undergraduate degree and certificate programs. Whether you’re looking for graduate school or undergraduate evening programs, an information session can help get you to where you need to be.

If you’re on the fence about a particular area of study, or just not sure where to begin, this is a great place to start.

Please visit www.fitchburg-state.edu/info/session to learn more and to register for the informational webinar.

Fitchburg State and MPT renews agreement police program

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University and the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) have renewed the agreement governing the university’s groundbreaking criminal justice program, whose graduates complete, in five years, bachelor’s and master’s degrees plus certification to work as police officers in municipal departments across the state.

Officials from the university and MPTC signed the renewed pact on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

The five-year program, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, graduated its first cohort from the academy in 2018. Approximately 30 students will be completing their baccalaureate degrees in criminal justice this May and will begin their academy curriculum this summer, including firearms, defensive tactics and emergency vehicle operations. This

fall they will start their master’s degrees.

Graduates from the first two cohorts are already employed by police departments in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

“The police program is founded on the principle that better education and training creates better police officers,” Fitchburg State president Richard S. Lapidus said. “This program creates a clear path for dedicated students to pursue their ambitions to serve their communities in this vital, continually evolving profession.”

“The graduates this program is producing are incredible,” said interim MPTC executive director Robert J. Ferullo. “Leaders in this profession are buying into this program that is turning out well-educated, fully trained police officers.”

To learn more about the program, people may visit fitchburg-state.edu/criminaljustice.

Wasnick named to Simmons University dean’s list

BOSTON – The following local resident was named to the 2019 fall semester dean’s list at Simmons University in Boston: Riley Wasiuk of Rutland.

To qualify for dean’s list sta-

tus, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

TOURNAMENTS, continued from page 7

er seeds in a state tournament. Fewer games played could result in fewer opportunities for wins, which plays into the MaxPreps formula, which will be used to determine state tournament seeds.

While there is a hold on meetings regarding a sectional tournament during the coronavirus pandemic, the subject will continue to be discussed in the coming months.

SPRING SPORTS, continued from page 7

The new cutoff date for regular season contests will be June 12 with seeding occurring on June 13. Tournaments would begin on June 15.

Additionally, the board tasked the Tournament Management Committee, which has been working closely with the Board of Directors, with coming up with a tournament structure to be submitted to the board for April 9.

GOLF, continued from page 7

was very pleased with the ability to keep the course up.

“Being allowed to continue maintenance during those temporary closures ensures the course will

be ready for operations in the near future,” said O’Neill. “We all share the same goal of returning to recreational normalcy, when clubs can welcome golfers back to the tee.”

O’Neill encourages people to heed the advice of state and federal officials to maintain social

distancing.

“We ask that the people in the Massachusetts golf community work through this together in a respectful and responsible way by following the protocols of the CDC, WHO, and local health officials,” said O’Neill.

The Barre Gazette is on Facebook. Log on today.

Church News

Tri-Parish Community Church news

The dictionary describes “normal” as “adhering to a usual or typical pattern, level, or type”. It is safe to say that nothing we do in our current world, could fit into that definition. The seven days of the week are like one-with nothing to separate one

from the other; and, the weeks roll along as if on an endless, monotonous conveyer belt. The Tri-Parish Community Church of New Braintree, Hardwick, and Gilbertville is suspended in mid-air unable, for the most part, to make any physi-

cal contact with the community. However, the church website, triparishcommunitychurch.com, is still in operation for church news and also has the Palm Sunday message by guest speaker, Rev. Ellis Pelham. Stay safe and stay healthy.

St. Mary’s Women’s Club give event update

ORANGE – St. Mary’s Women’s Club in Orange has announced several changes due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The regular April Meeting has been canceled, and the two May meetings will be held only if the Parish

has been reopened. Meetings are scheduled for May 5 for election and May 12 for banquet and installation.

The Vendor’s Fair scheduled for May 2 has been rescheduled for Aug. 29. Vendors wishing to

reserve a table or in need of additional information should contact Emily Carey White at 774-254-7500 or Emilycarey@outlook.com.

A June 9 meeting to travel to St. Anne’s Shrine in Fiskdale is still planned.

Local pastors offer sermons

Note: The Barre Gazette staff reached out to area churches if they would provide sermons during the Coronavirus pandemic. Any pastor, priest or rabbi wishing to participate may email either barrenews@turley.com or edowner@turley.com.

A Jubilant Crowd and a Humble Messiah! Scripture Reading: Matthew 21 v 1-11

Grace and peace to you, dear members and friends of the Barre Congregational Church on this day, Palm Sunday! I hope all is well with you. I am writing to you again from my home, and I ask that we again join many Christians around the world today in prayer, asking for God’s mercy and protection against the Coronavirus pandemic.

Please pray this prayer in silence...

Oh Lord, on this Palm Sunday we worship Your Holy Name!

We thank You for Your love and Presence among us.

This morning we are reminded of the words of the Psalmist,

That You are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble!

We come to You again, and offer to You our hearts and minds and all that we are,

We ask that You give us faith and hope deep inside to know that You are with us during this trying time.

Help us not to fear, but to believe and trust in Your power and protection and remind us of the

sacrifice Your Son went through for our salvation.

We pray for all our needs and ask for Your forgiveness of our sins.

Bless our congregation and all our friends and neighbors

Be present and bring comfort to those who are sick and lonely

Bless our loved ones and keep them safe

Bring release of this virus and give us Your peace and protection

We pray this in Jesus’ Name, Amen

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Please spend a moment and read through the scripture prayerfully...

1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

2 saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5 “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;

7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

11 The crowds were saying,

“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Introduction

We have been on this journey of Lent for a few weeks now, remembering the journey of

Christ himself, as He spent time alone with God to find the strength to face the suffering that lay ahead. So, here we are, on Palm Sunday, the day when Jesus Christ entered

Jerusalem as the Son of David, the humble Prince of Peace. May this message from

Matthew 21 v 1-11 inspire us as we approach this Holy Week.

Palm Sunday...A Powerful Statement of a Humble Messiah

Palm Sunday has an important statement to make to the church and the world. It is a statement of humility from our Lord and Saviour, as He calls for a donkey to be brought for His ride into Jerusalem where He would spend His final days. To enter the City of Jerusalem on a donkey while the crowd was shouting Hosanna to the Son of David, acknowledging Him as the Messiah, was not exactly the entrance of a King at war, but a King of Peace. He knew that entering Jerusalem, where He was not welcome, would get Him into trouble. His presence would create tension and a decisive confrontation with the authorities and the religious leaders in Jerusalem, says New Testament Scholar, R.T France. He walked the walk of courage and faith that would lead Him to the ultimate suffering on the cross.

Jesus was a humble King of the people. He proclaimed a message of love and peace, not of coercion, like an earthly king, says France. He lived a life of compassion and justice for everyone, and all earthly Kingdoms should and must yield to this love that comes from God! The implication of this Divine love would mean a different way of ruling and caring for all people.

Filled with the Spirit of God, who gave Him strength to carry on, He would face those who did not approve of His message and actions. Despite being in danger, he would not be silenced during His time in Jerusalem. This is the powerful message of Palm Sunday...the meek and mild servant leadership of Jesus Christ was in direct opposition of the world’s idea of Kingship and authority, and yet He was still the King and Messiah of the crowd who followed Him. He so wanted the world of His time to know about this love of God for all people.

A Jubilant Crowd with a Clear Message

Yes, Christ was not alone on this journey. He was surrounded by a large, brave crowd; those who followed him from Galilee and elsewhere, and those who went ahead of Him. This was a crowd filled with utter joy and a deep conviction that He was their King, the Son of David, the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord, the Messiah! I can only imagine the depth of their joy, because of what He had done for them. He was the humble Man from Nazareth who traveled around to preach the Good News that God loved them, no matter who they were, and only wanted the best for them. He healed many, and they were witnesses to those miracles. He cared, he showed them the path of love and compassion. They must have known that he was endangering Himself entering Jerusalem, so they were not going to let Him go it alone. They gathered greenery and palms, and together with their cloaks they threw it all on the road

where He traveled! What a celebration and respect and honor for this Man of Nazareth.

This crowd had a clear message: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest! Look at us, He loves us, and we stand with Him!

So, here we are. We are entering Jerusalem with Him!

Conclusion

We know the consequences of Jesus’ decision to enter Jerusalem. We are approaching Holy week, when we will remember the crucifixion, the pain His family and His disciples had to endure. Let us remember though, that Christ had a crowd with Him then, lifting Him up, and giving glory to Him. Let us be the crowd today in our homes, shouting Hosanna to our King, Jesus Christ, who is greater than any threat we face today, or in the future. Let us pray without ceasing, and trust in the power of God to get us through and help us overcome this difficult season we’re going through. Let us be a crowd filled with the Spirit of God who gives us the strength that Christ had on His own journey.

Even though we are not together physically as a congregation, I pray that this Palm Sunday will be a remembrance of the power and courage of a crowd who followed Christ into Jerusalem; a remembrance of the Son of God Who faced the end of His earthly life, not without hope, but with the knowledge that the cross is only the transition to the Resurrection, to life! May this Gospel message bear fruit in our hearts and give us that same faith and hope in the Resurrection, and may God bless and keep you. Amen.

Prayer and benediction:

Dear Lord, please fill us with Your Spirit now...

Protect us all, deliver us from evil and strengthen our faith in You

Fill us with love for You and one another, now and always.

Give us Your peace...

May the grace of God, and the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever

Pastor Margaret Keyser

Barre Congregational Church
Palm Sunday

#NeverAlone

Recently I have taken note of a slogan that has gained popularity on social media platforms: i.e., #TogetherApart. This phrase has appeared on the pages of medical professionals, celebrities and political figures. What does #TogetherApart mean? It serves to indicate that we are united in this period of crisis, though we remain socially separated.

In many ways this is a great slogan that captures the spirit of the times in which we live. I take no issue with #TogetherApart, as either a citizen of this great nation or as a minister. However, I think it would be beneficial to identify and put forth another statement—a statement that finds its basis in in the pages of Scripture! Namely, #NeverAlone.

In this season of social distancing, wherein we cannot be together, it is my pleasure to report that the Lord is near to us all. Even if we are separated by space and distance, He is not removed—we are never alone! Consider the following excerpt from the Book of Psalms:

Psalm 139:7–12 (NIV)

7 Where can I go from your Spirit?

See SERMONS, page 10

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

Brewer, Robert W.
Died April 1, 2020
Private Christian Burial
St. Joseph’s Cemetery

Chamberlain, Ruth E.
Died April 3, 2020
All services will
be private
Cataudella Funeral
Home

Panaccione, Louis T.
Died April 1, 220
Memorial service
at a later date
Chapman, Cole, and
Gleason Funeral Home

Smith, Fay (Chapman)
Died April 5, 2020
Memorial service
at a later date
Barre Congregational
Church

Robert William Brewer, 70



BARRE/HENNICKER,N.H. – Robert William Brewer, 70, passed away on April 1, 2020 following a recent illness. Rob was born on Nov. 22, 1949 and grew up in Barre, MA. He spent his summers with his aunt and uncles on the family farm, known locally as The Daunt Farm. Those memories were some of his most cherished and instilled in him his love of cows, baseball, farming and a simple way of life.

Rob was an incredibly hard worker and his love for the lumber industry started at just 14 years old while working after school nailing pallets for Dave McNiven in Barre. One day Dave asked Rob if he wanted to go logging with him and the rest is history. Rob graduated from Barre High School in June 1967, continuing his employment at The Allen Foundry until he was drafted into the United States Army in June 1969. Rob completed basic training in Fort Dix, N.J. He married his “best girl,” Barbara (Rich) of Winchester, N.H. in December and left for Fort Sill, OK days later. Barbara soon followed, driven by Rob’s brother Steve in Rob’s 1964 Chevy Biscayne with no windshield wipers in January and a portable record player on her lap the whole way.

Rob left a pregnant Barb for the Republic of South Vietnam in June

1970 and was stationed in Da Nang, one of the most important port cities. Working primarily in shipping and transportation, Rob quickly rose to the class of Sergeant, E-5 in an unprecedented amount of time. The Red Cross notified Rob that his son was born that December of 1970, four days after his birth.

Upon discharge from the Army, Rob was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and the Bronze Star Medal for exemplary meritorious service.

Upon his return home in May 1971, Rob worked at the Wood Flour Mill in Winchester, N.H. before finding his way to Cersosimo Lumber in Brattleboro, VT. He continued to work in the lumber and logging industry, including owning his own lumber business, right up to his death. Rob was a well-respected man in the lumber business and was known for his unorthodox management style and vast knowledge of everyone and everywhere lumber related. Rob devoted his life to working and it is what brought him peace.

The only thing more important to Rob than work was fami-



ly and he leaves his wife of 50 years Barbara, his son, Jim and his partner Judy and her son James; his daughter, Meghan, and his three granddaughters, Jade, Rhiannon and Ella, who were the absolute light and joy of his life. Rob also leaves his beloved brothers, Brad,

Phil, John and Steve as well as their respective families, which includes many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his mother Agnes (Daunt), father Herbert, and sister, Elizabeth Minkler.

We would also like to note that Rob recently celebrated 43 years of continuous sobriety with the help of the Alcoholics Anonymous Program and his faith in God. Following the 12 A.A. Traditions, Rob mentored and sponsored hundreds of fellow alcoholics and addicts seeking recovery. His story and example allowed many to maintain their own life of sobriety.

A private Christian burial will take place in St. Josephs Cemetery in Barre and a celebration of life will be forthcoming. The family requests no flowers and that any donations be made in Rob’s name to the charity of your choice. Arrangement are in the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road. Barre, MA

Fay (Chapman) Smith, 104

BARRE - Fay (Chapman) Smith, 104, of Barre passed away on April 5 , 2020 in Athol Hospital from complications surrounding pneumonia.

Fay was born August 10, 1915 in Barre, the second of four daughters born to local dairy farmer Earl E. and Fern E. (Douglas) Chapman and was a lifelong resident of the town. She graduated from Barre High School in 1933.

In 1936 Fay married Robert F. Scott, father of her three daughters. There were many years of cribbage games, hard work on her family’s farm on the weekends, followed by fabulous meals, laughter and card games with her sisters and their families. Bob passed away in 1965 suddenly and Fay, a young widow, returned to school and became a hairdresser. She was employed for 16 years as a hairdresser in Athol, retiring in 1982.

In 1971 Fay married Edward Vining. They spent 16 happy years ballroom dancing on Saturday nights, Scrabble every night after dinner, traveling to Maine and other places every summer. Ed passed away in 1987 leaving Fay a widow once again.

In 2000 Fay attended her annual high school class reunion and reconnected with her old classmate, Warner (Bill) Smith. After a lengthy courtship, they married at 87 and 88 in 2002. Bill and Fay spent 13 wonderful years together, spending winters in Bill’s home in Avon Park Florida, and returning to Barre for the remainder of the year; they faithfully played a nightly game or two of Skip-Bo after watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. Bill passed away in 2016 at 101.

Fay’s greatest joy was spending time with her family and extended family. She loved family gatherings and celebrating her birthday and holidays with all her family members. She loved to cook, particularly bake. Her pies and Martha Washington chocolates were leg-

endary. When she was younger, Fay enjoyed crocheting and knitting; many members of her family received a cozy afghan to curl up with on winter nights. She loved to dance, play cards and laugh along with her family.

Fay was a member of the Hubbardston Golden Age, the Barre Congregational Church and was a member of the Women’s Fellowship. She served on the candy committee at their annual fair for more than 30 years, contributing those Martha Washington chocolates for most of them. She served at one point as deaconess of the church.

She was a member of the Barre Historical Society and was a proud New Englander; a descendant through her father of Mayflower passengers John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley. She is predeceased by husbands Bob, Ed and Bill.

In addition, she is predeceased by daughter, Roberta (Scott) Lawrence and husband Stanley of Stamford, VT; daughter, Shirley (Scott) Garipey of Barre; grandson Scott B. Lawrence and three sisters, Dorothy Bingham, Merle Vaidulas and Ramona Flynn.

She is survived by her daughter, Irene (Scott) Bergman and husband Dana of Worcester, son-in-law Richard Garipey of Barre, six grandsons, three granddaughters, seven great- grandsons, three great-granddaughters, eight great-great grandsons, a nephew and nieces. In addition, she is survived by her extended family and their families: Wayne Smith and wife Shirley of Barre; Joyce Brown and husband Clarke of Barre, Ann Dilling and husband Jack of Hubbardston and Paul Vining of Winchendon.

We celebrate a long and fulfilling life; you shared our successes,



joined us in our sorrows and bumps along the way and lived with grace, dignity and love, as we love you in return. You will be sorely missed.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to all family and friends that continued to support Fay over the last several years, providing transportation, mail delivery, visiting, meals and many other caring acts, so that she could continue to live independently in her home. And lastly, thank you for the care and support provided to her in her final days by the staff at Athol

Hospital.

Her funeral will be at the convenience of her family and a memorial service will be held at the Barre Congregational Church at a future date. Funeral arrangements are being administered through Miles Funeral Home, Holden.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre, MA 01005.

MORE OBITUARIES ON PAGE 10

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

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Obituaries

Ruth E. Chamberlain, 75

BARRE – Ruth E. Chamberlain, 75, of Barre, passed away Friday, April 3, 2020, at her home. Born in Lawrence, she was the daughter of the late Edmund and Ruth (Callahan) Chamberlain.

In the 1960s, Ruth moved to Ayer. Being a person who has developmental disabilities she was supported by The ARC of Opportunities in Fitchburg. She worked for the YMCA in Fitchburg and later at the Colonial Hotel in Gardner, until retiring. She was supported by Seven Hills Family Services in Fitchburg and the GVNA Day Hab, which she had the opportunity to make many friends. She attended the First

Church of Princeton that she never missed a service or an opportunity to help her community. She volunteered at IHN Family Homeless Shelter, sponsored a child at Christmas and gave flowers to the church monthly. Ruth would jump at the chance to volunteer at her local food bank and local shelter kitchen. She enjoyed traveling and meeting people, shopping, animals and Dunkin Donuts for the newest flavor.

The family will be forever grateful to her caretaker and best friend,



Diane Parker.

In addition to her parents, Ruth was predeceased by her cousin, Penni Devlin Galle.

She is survived by her aunt, Dot Chamberlain; cousins, Richard Chamberlain, Carol Berube, Catherine King, and Richard Galle.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation all services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ruth's memory may be made to The Arc of Opportunity, 564 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.cataudellafh.com.

Louis T. Panaccione, 87

SANDWICH – Louis T. Panaccione, 87, of 10 Inkberry Circle, Sandwich, died at home on April 1, 2020 after a brief illness and surrounded by loved ones.

Lou was born and raised in Barre. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean war. He was a graduate of Wentworth Institute and was career-long employee of Morgan Construction Co. of Worcester, where he worked as a mechanical engineer and was an author of several patents.

He was always generously committed to service of his local parish, St. Thomas-a-Beckett, while in Barre, where he helped with building renovations and Christ the King in Mashpee, where he served as eucharistic minister and worked at the food

pantry. He was a member of the Barre School Board during the construction of Quabbin Regional High School.

Lou enjoyed gardening, carpentry, helping friends and neighbors, and spending time with his family. He golfed into his 87th year with his friends in “the gang of 32” at Holly Ridge Golf Club.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Janice (Mann) Panaccione and six sons: Lou and Lily of Hull, Paul and Lisa of Amesbury, Mark and Rose of Rockport, Maine, Dan and Nicole of Morgantown, West Virginia, John



and Vicky of Newbury and Jim of Casper, Wyoming; a sister, Theresa Blake of Hicksville, New York; ten grandchildren and their families and three great-grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces.

He will be buried at the Massachusetts's National Cemetery in Bourne in a private ceremony and a memorial for friends and family will be scheduled later. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the food pantry at Christ the King Parish, P.O. Box 1800, Mashpee, MA 02649. For online guestbook and directions please visit www.ccgfuneralhome.com

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO20P0946EA
Estate of:
Antonio Leo
Date of Death: 12/09/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Linda V Swenson**

of Oakham MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Linda V Swenson** of Oakham MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00

a.m. on the return day of **06/02/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the

MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Leilah A Keamy**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 01, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
4/09/2020

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Police Logs

Barre Police Log

Sunday, March 29
10:09 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency South Barre Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:47 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Hubbardston Road – Confirmed Misdial

Monday, March 30
3:12 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint South Street – Negative Contact
3:18 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Fruitland Road – Vehicle Impounded/Stopped

Tuesday, March 31
7:01 a.m. Alarm, Trouble Signal Sanderson Road – Information Given
7:09 a.m. Officer Wanted Fritschner Road – Report Filed
10 a.m. Follow-up Investigation Summer Street – Investigated
1:42 p.m. Suspicious Activity James Street – Officer Spoke to Party
2:08 p.m. Fraud Old Coldbrook Road – Officer Spoke to Party
6:28 p.m. Property Dispute Old Stage Road – Officer Advised
7:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Summer Street – Report Filed
7:14 p.m. Illegal Dumping Cedar Street – Investigated
7:22 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Washburn Road – Confirmed Misdial
10:43 p.m. Disturbance, Noise Complaint School Street North – Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, April 1
11:20 a.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint South Street – Officer Advised
12:02 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent South Street – Information Taken
1:14 p.m. Property Damage Summer Street – Officer Spoke to Party
1:18 p.m. Fraud Dana Road – Officer Spoke to Party
1:48 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent South Barre Road – Information Taken
3:22 p.m. Follow-up Investigation Summer Street – Investigated
4:29 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Old Coldbrook Road – Officer Spoke to Party
5:25 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Peach Street – Negative Contact
10:13 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Fruitland Road – Negative Contact

Thursday, April 2
3:04 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency North Brookfield Road – Transported to Hospital
9:23 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Peach Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:13 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Hancock Road – Transported to Hospital
1:58 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Valley Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:18 p.m. Trespassing Old

Coldbrook Road – Officer Spoke to Party
4:44 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Peach Street – Transported to Hospital

Friday, April 3
8:46 a.m. Animal ACO Call Pleasant Street – Message Delivered
10:08 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Wauwinet Road – Transported to Hospital
2:14 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Old Coldbrook Road – Negative Contact

Saturday, April 4
12:41 p.m. Threats Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party
4:03 p.m. Trespassing Stetson Road – Officer Advised
5:22 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Old Coldbrook Road – Negative Contact

SOUTH BARRE

Monday, March 30
11:27 a.m. Animal Complaint Chapman Road – Message Delivered
1:38 p.m. Animal Complaint Worcester Road – Message Delivered

Tuesday, March 31
9:58 a.m. Animal ACO Call Glazier Road – Information Given

Thursday, April 2
2:45 p.m. Drugs/Narcotics Violation(s) Nelson Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, March 29
1:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Gardner Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:38 p.m. Suspicious Activity Old Boston Turnpike – Party Departed Without Incident

Monday, March 30
9:45 a.m. Officer Wanted Dogwood North Road – Officer Spoke to Party
3:03 p.m. Welfare Check Williamsville Road – Officer Spoke to Party
7:24 p.m. Animal Lost and/or Found Simond Hill Road – Information Taken

Tuesday, March 31
4:10 p.m. Illegal Dumping Old Westminster Road – Investigated

9:10 p.m. Fire, Chimney Root Road – Fire Extinguished

Wednesday, April 1
1:11 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital
2:53 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Worcester Road – Public Assist
3:03 p.m. Community Policing Gardner Road – Area Patrolled
7:16 p.m. Officer Wanted Main Street – Report Filed

Thursday, April 2
2:17 p.m. Trespassing Elm Street – Party Department Without Incident
6:36 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Main Street – Confirmed Misdial
8:17 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency

Madison Way – Transported to Hospital

Friday, April 3
6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Worcester Road – Vehicle Towed
7:37 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Old Princeton Road – Officer Spoke to Party
8:13 p.m. Welfare Check Ragged Hill Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, April 4
12:23 p.m. Complaint – Civil Issue Ragged Hill Road – Advised Civil Action
2:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party
2:46 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Pitcherville Road – Investigated

Oakham Police Log

Monday, March 30
10:29 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Crawford Road – Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, March 31
3:52 p.m. Follow-up Investigation North Brookfield Road – Officer Took Call
6:06 p.m. Suspicious Activity North Brookfield Road – Building Checked/Secured

Secured

Wednesday, April 1
12:03 p.m. Welfare Check Tomlinson Road – Negative Contact
1:44 p.m. Assist Other Police Department Robinson Road – Negative Contact

Friday, April 3
8:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled

North Brookfield Road – Vehicle Towed
10:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Old Turnpike Road – Vehicle Removed
4:22 p.m. Animal Lost and/or Found Barre Road – Information Given

Saturday, April 4
10:44 p.m. Alarm, Residential Gaffney Road – Negative Contact

Hardwick Police Log

Monday, March 30
3:30 p.m. 911 – Phone Calls – Officer Handled
5:12 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Greenwich Road – Transported to Hospital
5:49 p.m. 911 – Alarm Barre Road – Building Checked/Secured

Tuesday, March 31
10:10 a.m. Phone – Motor Vehicle Investigation New Braintree Road – Investigated
11:44 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Street – Transported to Hospital
4:51 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call

Jackson Road – Investigated
10:11 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, April 1
12:17 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital
5:46 p.m. Phone – Found/Lost Property Joslyn Road – Investigated

Thursday, April 2
9:49 a.m. Initiated – Property Damage Barre Road – Officer Handled
5:49 p.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Greenwich Road – Services Rendered

Friday, April 3
3:42 p.m. Initiated – Snow Ban/ Parking Violation Railroad Lane – Citation Issued
9:02 p.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Pine Street – Gone On Arrival

Saturday, April 4
4:19 p.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Services Rendered
4:57 p.m. Phone – Assist Other Agency Hardwick/New Braintree – Services Rendered
8:01 p.m. 911 – Suspicious Activity Ruggles Hill Road – Spoken To

SERMONS, continued from page 9

Where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,”
12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

In every place and in every period of life, God is near to His people (cf. Psalm 23). Wherever you are or whatever you are facing, He is there. Thus said, we do well to recognize that there is benefit to His presence. In other words, we derive benefit from His proximity and presence.

wWhat benefits do we derive?
Firstly, His nearness affords us divine PROTECTION. This is not tacit permission to be reckless in these challenging times. You should still wash your hands and follow the guidelines offered by our political leaders and medical professionals. However, we must not discount the reality that God does protect. Consider the wonders of the following passage:

Psalm 91:1–7
1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
3 Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.
4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
6 nor the pestilence that stalks

in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
Secondly, His nearness affords us divine PROVISION. The Lord cares for your earthly needs and has promised to meet the needs of those who look to Him in faith. Reflect upon the following teaching of Jesus Christ:

Luke 12:22–32
22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing,

Pastor James Foley
New Life Assembly of God

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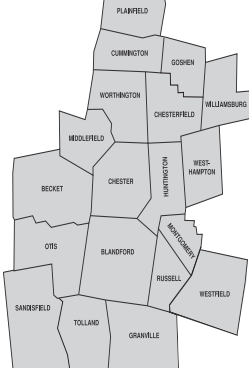
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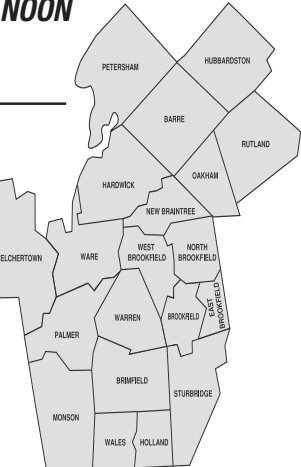
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Some grocery stores to provide pay raise during pandemic

WASHINGTON, DC — The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), which represents 1.3 million workers in grocery, retail, and other industries, applauded the move by Safeway, which is owned by Albertsons Companies, to provide a two-dollar-per-hour increase in pay for its Massachusetts grocery workers at Shaw's and Star Market stores during the coronavirus outbreak.

"After close talks between Safeway and UFCW, the union representing over 1.3 million grocery store and food processing workers, we are proud to support the significant wage increase adopted by Safeway, one of America's largest supermarket companies," said UFCW International President Marc Perrone. "Safeway and the UFCW both recognize that grocery store workers are on the frontlines of this crisis. What Safeway did shows real leadership. We hope that this sends a message to every supermarket, grocery store, and food retail employer - union and non-union - across this country that it is time for every company to recognize the sacrifice America's food workers are making."

"In ways that we could not even imagine, overnight, our country

changed - and as a result it changed the way our teams conduct business," said Albertsons Co. President and CEO Vivek Sankaran. "I am so proud to say our teams did not skip a step. In our manufacturing plants, distribution centers and in our stores, our associates are working tirelessly to serve our customers. They work every day to keep our communities fed, their pantries and medicine cabinets stocked, and to ensure one less worry on our customers' minds as we all face this unprecedented pandemic."

Albertsons Companies is one of the largest U.S. food and drug

retailers with stores across 34 states and the District of Columbia under 20 well-known banners including Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Jewel-Osco, Shaw's, Acme, Tom Thumb, Randalls, United Supermarkets, Pavilions, Star Market, Haggen and Carrs.

In the past week, UFCW has secured increased pay and benefits for more than 320,000 grocery workers. Yesterday, UFCW announced a 10 percent pay raise and two weeks paid leave for over 70,000 grocery workers with Stop & Shop stores in New England, New York, and New Jersey.

In Washington State, UFCW Local Unions 21, 367, and 1439 announced a deal with Safeway as well as Albertsons and Fred Meyer/QFC grocery stores to provide two weeks of paid leave for these workers, strengthen childcare access and protect healthcare coverage for any workers who become sick.

In Missouri, UFCW Local Union 655 also secured a deal for local grocery workers to waive all co-pays for coronavirus testing, maintain pay for those who become sick, and expand access to telemedicine with zero out-of-pocket costs.

UFCW also recognized Michigan,

Minnesota, and Vermont this week for designating their states' grocery workers as front line responders, expanding access to free childcare as these employees continue to help local families during this crisis.

The UFCW is the largest private sector union in the United States, representing 1.3 million professionals and their families in healthcare, grocery stores, meat-packing, food processing, retail shops and other industries. Our members serve our communities in all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. People may learn more about the UFCW at ufcw.org.

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